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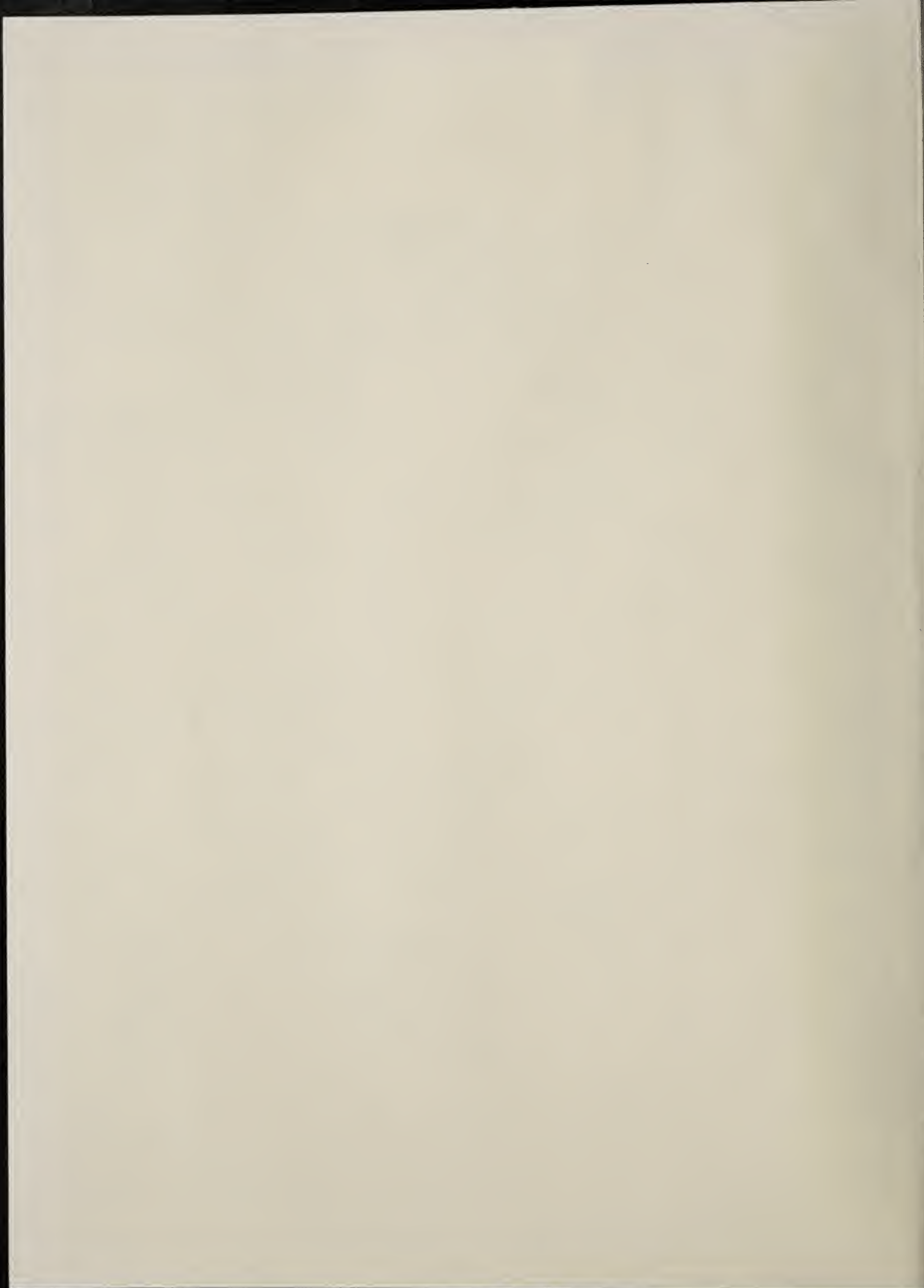
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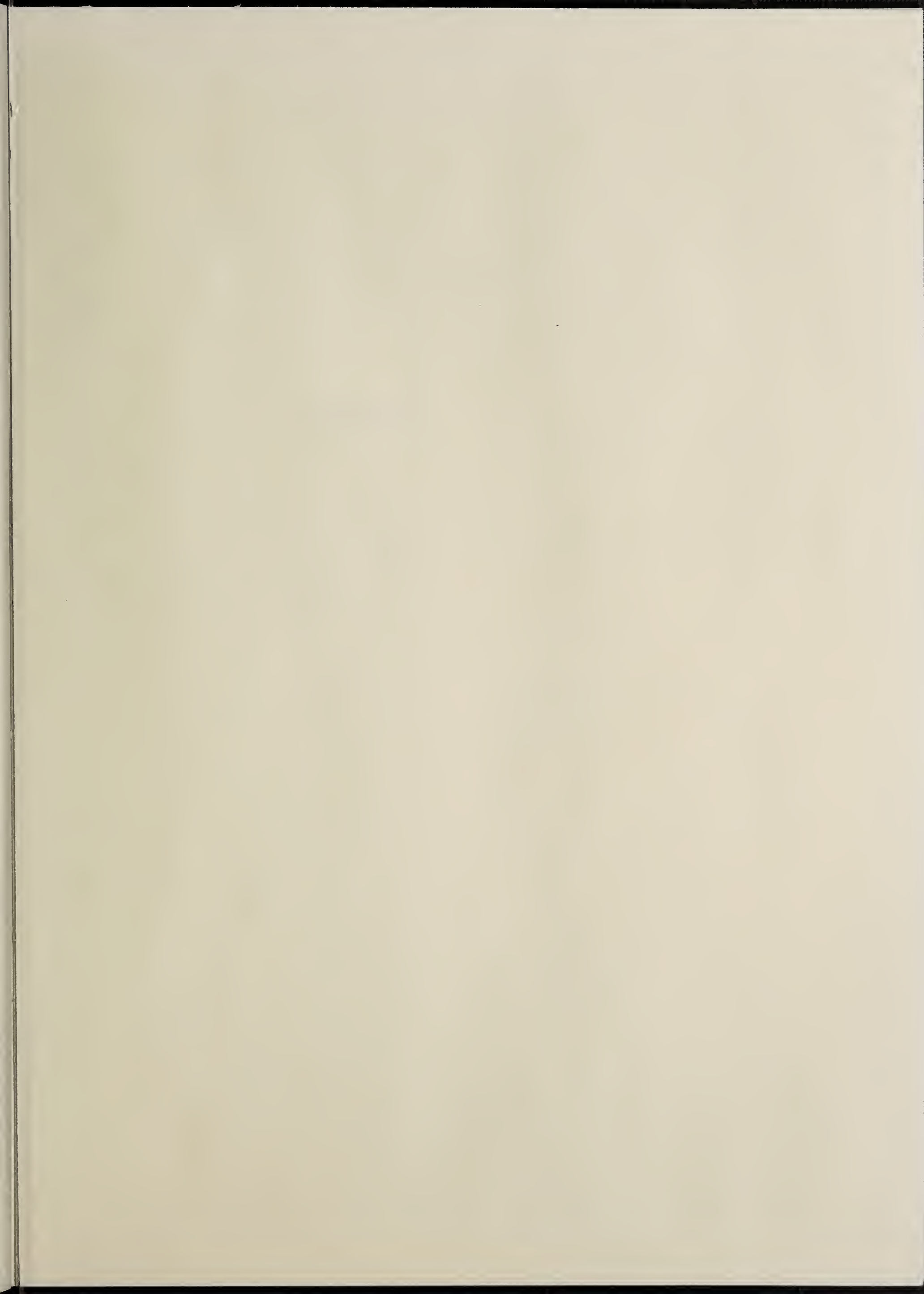
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PIERCE, JAMES M., 1867-

HARTER TREE

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Harter Tree

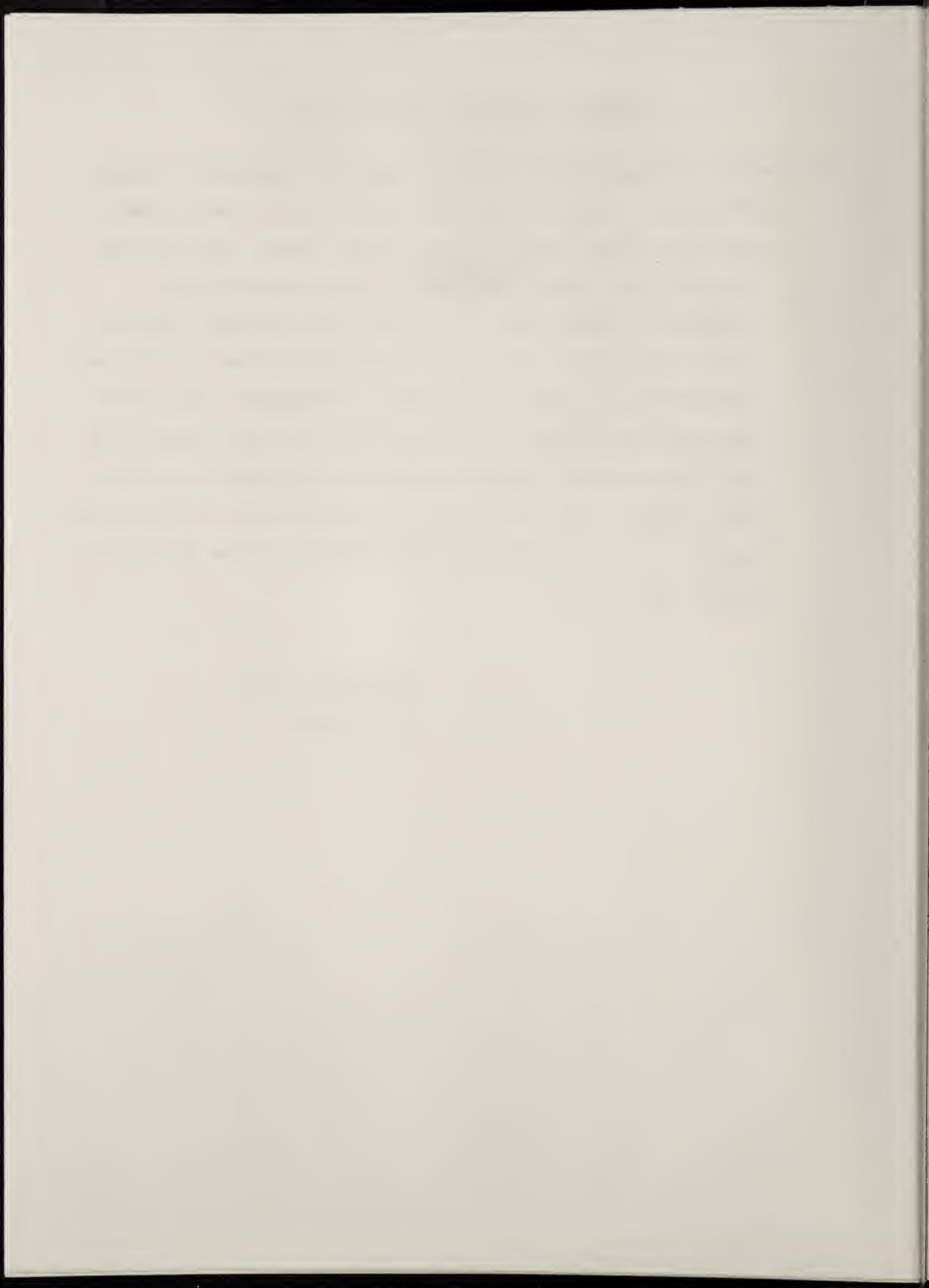
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Pompeii, Michigan June 7, 1939

The writer of this article lays no claim as a reporter or writer of renown. So don't expect too much of me. I was asked to write up a brief record of the Harter family. So with the help of some others , we will be able to dig up what resembles a Harter tree. I am like the Irishman: there was to be a dog fight but when the time came there was only one dog on hand. As they did not wish to disappoint the crowd, they asked Pat if he would take the other dog's place. He told them he would fight the dog and do the best he could. That is what I will try and do. I will try and write a brief history , as for myself, I would rather not have my history written too close.

Sincerely yours,

J.M. Pierce



As far as I know there is no record of Adam Harter's parents.

So our real beginning will start with Adam Harter.

The record shows that Adam Harter was born in the state of

Pennsylvania February 15, 1819 of Dutch ancestry. They are called Pennsylvania Dutch, so it is probable that they came from Holland.

Adam Harter had brothers and sisters, but we have no record of even their given names. While a young man Adam Harter immigrated to Ohio where he met and married Elizabeth Kinney a native of Ohio. She had one brother, who was well known in Gratiot County, especially in the township of Newark. Elizabeth Kinney Harter was born September 13, 1818 in Bowling Green, Ohio. To this union of Adam and Elizabeth Harter ten children were born. (They were married in 1835). All of their children were born in Ohio. The children of Adam and Elizabeth Harter were Joshua, Joseph, Samuel, John, Mary, James, George, Lee, and Josie and Miles (who died in infancy.) They came to Gratiot County in 1862 by horse and wagon. We of today can hardly comprehend how things were at that early date. They probably found something that resembled a road, but some of the ways was just a trail through the forest. They located on forty acres in Newark Township.

The first thing was to erect something for a shelter for the family and stock, which was usually a log structure, then clear off a piece of land and put it to some kind of crop. The stock lived a good deal on brouse and probably the people did too, but there was plenty of of wild game and fishing was good in those days. Everyone turned their stock in the road or rather the woods. In the spring when the leeks got up, the cows would eat them, and what a mess of leeky milk and butter

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON
FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME
IN TWO VOLUMES
BY NATHANIEL BENTLEY
OF THE BARR

VOLUME THE SECOND
CONTAINING THE HISTORY FROM
THE YEAR 1700 TO THE PRESENT TIME
PUBLISHED BY NATHANIEL BENTLEY
AT THE SIGN OF THE SHIELD
IN THE CITY OF BOSTON
1787

they would have. They would have to eat a leek or onion in order to use either. We of the present day should take off our hats to the old pioneers for what they endured for us.

They had scarcely any roads. Their fields were filled with stumps and stones , but they managed to live and some made good homes for themselves. Shortly after coming to Michigan Joshua Harter went to war, contracted the measles ; and died at Nashville, Tennessee and was buried in the National Cemetery at that place. There is no record of his birth or death. Next came Joseph, sorry to say we have no record of his birth or death. Joseph Harter married Josephine De Line. To this union six children were born as follows; Frank, Bert, Roberta, Mary, Veere, and Lola. They farmed here for some time. Then they went to Nebraska where they lived for several years, but the drought and hot winds starved them out. They came back to Michigan and stayed a couple of years, when they got the western fever and went west, but not to the same place. The last was known they were in South Dakota. The old folks have long since passed on. Perhaps the children are living .

Samuel Harter , son of Adam and Elizabeth Kinney Harter, was born in Lincoln County ,Ohio December 29,1848. At the age of 13 years, he came to Michigan with his parents. Enduring all the hardships of the early pioneers and he has seen Gratiot County develop into what it is today. On October 7, 1866 he was united in marriage to Susan Gantz and to this union was born eleven children as follows Adam, dying in infancy, at the age of 17 months, Emma, Mary, Bertha, Julia, Ida, Anna, Vernice, Arthur, Millie, and Alvin. Those that are living are Anna,whose husband Fred Rockafellow, is dead; Ida married Charley Charter (they are both living); Vernice married Will Andrews of Perrinton (both living); Alvin and wife both living

5

The mother died August 13, 1919. After the death of his wife, Samuel Harter made his home with his children and during his last sickness was with his daughter, Mrs. Fred Rockafellow. His death occurred April 4, 1930 at the age of 82 years, 3 months, and 6 days. He was a kind father, a good neighbor, always ready and willing to help in time of need. Funeral services were held on Sunday Afternoon at the North Star Cemetery Church, conducted by Reverend F. G. Dunbar, burial in the North Star Cemetery.

James F. Harter, who has been confined to the house for nearly six weeks with a complication of diseases, died at his home in the village of Ashley last Sunday morning. (June 1939)

Mr. Harter was a hard working man, a good citizen, and well respected by the people of Ashley and vicinity, and his death has caused many to mourn. James F. Harter was born in Licking County, Ohio May, 9, 1846 and moved with his parents, Adam and Elizabeth Kinney Harter to the Township of Newark, this county, when but sixteen years of age. He was married February 22, 1866 to Lizzie Strouse who died in March 1877. Five children were born to them, three of whom are living. Mrs. Mary Bacon of North Star. She married Will Bacon. They had three boys; Claud, Glenn, and Ford. Both Mary and Will are dead now. Mrs. Lena Green of Fowler, they have children. George Green is dead now. Mrs. Clells Gilson now of Elsie, married Jay Gilson, a barber at one time, but now live on a farm out of Elsie. They have one daughter Blanche, who also resides on a farm.

Mary Harter Bacon was born in Gratiot County December 17, 1866 and died on April 11, 1936 at Ithaca, Michigan.

Lena was born in Gratiot County November 27, 1872, lives in Wisconsin.

Clelle Harter Gilson was born in Gratiot County December 8, 1874. These are the children of James F. Harter's first wife. On August 16, 1879 he was married to Lydia Franklin of North Star. To them were born three children; Lucy, Elverh, and Beatrice. James F. Harter died September 13, 1896 at his home in the village of Ashley where he had lived for the past seven years, at the age of fifty years, four months, and four days. The funeral services were held at the U. B. Church in North Star. Elder Day officiating. His remains were interred in the Newark Cemetery. His life has been a busy one and he is mourned by his aged parents, who survive him, also his wife and children besides other relatives and friends in this county where he was well known.

Children of James F. Harter's second wife: Lucy living in Flint now, born in Gratiot County July 16, 1880 ; Elvert living in Rockford, Illinois, born in Gratiot County October 12, 1881 ; Beatrice born in Gratiot County July 28, 1886. She is now living in California, a nurse in a hospital.

In looking over some clippings from papers, I find the birth and death of another daughter of James F. Harter's first wife, died May 18, 1894 at her home in North Star, Ella, wife of Edward Rathburn and daughter of James Harter of this place. Ella was born October 9, 1870 in Newark Township, this county and was therefore aged 23 years, 7 months, and 9 days. She leaves a little babe, but five days old. The funeral was held at the North Star Cemetery Church conducted by Reverend Messner.

Brief History of John G. Harter

John G. Harter son of Adam and Elizabeth Kinney Harter was born in Licking County, Ohio July 29, 1850 and departed this life March 30, 1922 at the age of 71 years 8 months and 1 day. In September 1862, at the age of 12 years, he came with his parents

to Michigan locating in Newark Township, Gratiot County. He was married to Emma Jane Hawkins June 18, 1871. To this union 8 children were born; 3 boys and 5 girls : Carrie E. Pierce, of Washington Township: Mary J. Johnson of Fulton Township: Sarah A. Wright of Fulton Twonship: George L. Harter of Perrinton: David L. Harter of Fulton Township: Melissa Mummey(E.) of Washinton Township : Ora A. Helms of Hamilton Township and Clark L. Harter of Fulton Township. Besides his wife and children he leaves 23 grandchildren, 7 great -grandchildren, three brothers, Samuel of Ithaca, Lee of Benton Harbor, George of St. Johns, one sister Rose Curry of Ashley, besides a host of other relatives and friends. The funeral services were held at the Old U.B. Church of North Star Saturday April 2. 1922, Reverend Rolland officiating with burial in the Fritz Cemetery, Newark Township. Emmaretta Hawkins Harter was born January 22, 1850 (wife of John G. Harter) and died Thursday May 27, 1926 after a long illness. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Hawkins and was married to John G. Harter June 18, 1871, by Napoleon Fraker, Justice of the Peace. She leaves five daughters and three sons, several grandchildren, one sister and one brother to mourn. The funeral was held at the U. B. Church on Sunday. Burial in the Fritz Cemetery. The family have the sympathy of their many friends in their bereavement.

A brief sketch of the children of John G. and Emmaretta Harter.

Caroline E. Harter was born on March 22, 1872. The eldest of John and Emma's children, didn't like to stay at home very well, went to work for Mrs. Overmire at the age of 12 years for 50 ¢ per week. At about 15 years of age went to live with her grandmother Harter, worked out to earn her own clothes, got a dollar to \$1.50 per week and at that time girls were supposed to work all day and half

the night. She was married at her father's home January 31, 1892 to James M. Pierce who was born January 30 , 1867 in Wayne County , Michigan. He came to Gratiot County at the age of four years with his parents. His father died when he was 7 years old. All of (our) children were born on the old farm in Washington Township. John ,of Grand Blanc, married Eunice De Mott, one boy, Jack Jr.; Robert L. died at 21 years; Lynn married Hazel Clark , two daughters; Joyce and Margaret, live in Flint; Ina B. married Henry Miles, three boys Robert L., James H., and Fred, live in Pompeii : Vena L. married Roy Spicer, three children Donna Rae, Larry, deceased, Sharon Lea lives on a farm near Otisville, Michigan.

(daughter of John G. and Emmaretta Hawkins Harter)
 Mary Jane[↑] Harter born December 3, 1873 in Newark Township , Gratiot

County, Michigan, married Edd Johnson. Have always lived on a farm. Their children were 10. The eldest, a boy, died in infancy.

Edith married Monte Walker. They have always lived on a farm.

They have three boys. Cleo married Edgar Hows.

Orville married but wife died in a few months, later married a Saurbeck girl, have children, live in Maple Rapids at the present time.

Then Glen lived at home for quite a while. Worken in condensery at Perrinton. Married , has poor health.

Helen married Deward Lier, they have children, occupation unknown.

Myldred married Lloyd Lewis, have children, works at anything.

Lena comes next, married H. Sparks, have children, don't know his occupation.

The next is Mary, she is working in Lansing in a boarding house, is single.

Sarah A. Harter, daughter of John G. and Emmaretta Jane Hawkins, was born November 19, 1875, married Bert Wright. Two boys were born to them. The eldest died at birth. Floyd Wright was born August 7, 1895. Floyd married Evelyn Payne. Four children were born to them, two boys and two girls; Lynden, Wendell, Geraldine, and June, all single and at home. The Wrights have always lived on a farm. The mother Evelyn Payne Wright, died Tuesday November 8, 1938 of heart trouble.

George L. Harter, son of John G. and Emmaretta Jane Hawkins Harter, was born February 28, 1878, married Laura Fessler, a widow with two children (Mary and Elmer). George and Laura lived on a farm for several years, then they moved to Perrinton where they both worked in the condensery until his death August 12, 1931. They had no children.

David L. Harter, son of John G. and Emmaretta Jane Hawkins Harter, was born on December 24, 1880, married Clara Mummey, lived on a farm North East of Maple Rapids. Clara died some years ago of cancer. They had no children.

Melissa E. Harter, daughter of John G. and Emmaretta Jane Hawkins Harter, was born on September 18, 1884. Married Welcome Mummey, lived on a farm most of the time, lived in Ashley for a while, has been working at the carpenter trade of late years. Five children were born to them as follows: Evah married Alphas Rayburn. They have one son Marvin who works in Fisher body. Evah teaches school, lives South East of Flint on a truck farm. Roscoe, after leaving the farm, was on the Great Lakes for several years, is married, has one son, Harold, who is now working in a laundry at Milwaukee. Lola married Roy Weaver, have two sons, Richard and Max who lives in Pompeii. Lola handles the telephone exchange. Roy works on the telephone lines. Roberta Mummey, Perrinton High School graduate,

helps her sister in the telephone office. She is still single.

Ora A. Harter, ^{daughter} of John G. and Emmaretta J. Hawkins Harter was born on August 1, 1887, married Warner Helms, seven children born to them. Have worked at different things, have farmed, run a saw-mill, and day labor. At the present time are living in Perrinton, where he works in the condensery. Alice Helms married George Moss but he did not live very long, died with T. B. She is married again, lives on a farm, but teaches school. (She married a man by the name of Klean). Lucille Helms married, but her husband lived only a few months, died also with T. B., married again, has a baby girl, her husband works in the condensery at Perrinton. Percy Helms has worked by the month on farms or at any other kind of work he can do, he is single. Wayne Helms, a graduate of Perrinton High School is married, has one child, a girl. He hauls freight from Detroit to Chicago. Paul, a graduate of Perrinton High School, plays ball, works at any thing he can do, is single. Marie is going to school, lives at home. Lyle is the youngest, is going to school, stays at home.

Clark L. Harter, son of John G. and Emmaretta Jane Hawkins Harter, was born on July 3, 1890, married Mary Fessler, no children, have always lived on a farm. They live on the old John Wright farm, but owns and operated both places. He bought the old Hyott farm about two years ago.

Mary Harter, the eldest daughter of Adam and Elizabeth Kinney Harter, was born on July 5, 1855 and died March 13, 1869 at the age of 14 years 8 months and 8 days. She died of typhoid fever.

Adam Lee, son of Adam and Elizabeth Kinney Harter, was born in Licking County, Ohio March 21, 1856 and came to Gratiot County with his parents when a small boy. When old enough he worked on

farms in summer and pine woods in the winter. He was married to Blanche Pierce of Benton Harbor February 3, 1892. After his marriage, he worked for some time for a railroad company. Five children were born to them. Lynn, Louise, Harold, Ethel, and one little son died. Blanche died some years before Lee (Adam). He was shot while cleaning a revolver, infection set in which caused his death. Date of his death is unknown.

George P. Harter, son of Adam and Elizabeth Kinney Harter was born in Ohio on February 3, 1858 and came with his parents Adam and Elizabeth Kinney Harter, to the Township of Newark, Gratiot County when three years of age, and has resided in Gratiot County most of his life. He was married in 1884 to Eva Fuller who proceeded him in death several years ago. Two children were born to them. Myrtle, now Mrs. Russell G. Allen of Alton, Illinois and Lovell who died July 29, 1918. He died February 26, 1933 at the age of 75 years. Funeral Services were held at Ithaca by Reverend H.G. Gaige. His remains were interred in the Fritz Cemetery by the side of his parents. He is survived by one sister, Mrs. Rose Curry of Ashley, three grandchildren and many neices and nephews.

Rosetta E. (Rosie) (Rose) Harter, the youngest child of Adam and Elizabeth Kinney Harter was born in Licking County, Ohio July, 20, 1860, came to Gratiot County when very, with her parents. Rosetta married F. Thomas Curry on November 4, 1883. They lived on a farm for a few years. F. Thomas Curry was born June 18, 1860, in Pentworth, Sussex, London, England. He came to America when a small boy and made his home with some relatives. As a young man he worked on farms in summer and pine woods in the winter. They moved to Ashley where he worked for Charles Chittenden in a saw mill and mill yard. Then he worked on the Ann Arbor Rail Road as section hand until he got on as mail carrier out of Ashley, which job he held until his death which occurred September 29, 1925. After

the death of her husband, Rosetta Curry lived alone for awhile, then made her home with her daughter Mrs. Julia Coon , until her death on October 30, 1936. To Thomas and Rosetta Curry , four children were born; ^{Julia Mildred, C. Glenn, Ruba} Julia E. Coon August 27, 1884, married to George Coon August 10. 1902. George Coon has been a mail carrier out of Ashley for a good many years. They lived in Ashley for awhile, but reside on a farm about one mile east of Ashley at the present time. Born to Julia and George Coon were ten children as follows: Vera born May 7, 1903 ; Velma born August 30, 1904; Helen born March 30, 1906; Lynn born August 15, 1908; Maurice born August 5, 1910 ; Pauline born April 22, 1912 ; Wilbur born September 23, 1917 ; Doris born September 5, 1915 ; Giles born July 12, 1920 ; Madeline born September 8, 1922.

Mildred J. Curry, daughter of Rosetta E. and F. Thomas Curry, was born on July 22, 1886, married to Milton Sebring on January 1906. They reside in Proctor, Minnesota. He is a railroad locomotive engineer. Children born to this union are as follows: Hal born November 2, 1910, Amber born July 27, 1914, Beulah born July 27, 1914, and LaVonne Born December 25, 1922.

C. Glenn Curry was born July 22, 1888. He was born on a farm in Washington Township, but soon moved with his parents to the village of Ashley where he grew to manhood. He was married to Sylvia Ames poker January 1911. One daughter Eva was born June 17, 1912. Eva Curry married Clark Ash.

Ruba M. Curry was born in the village of Ashley July 19, 1895. She married Archie Derry July 1913. To this union were born six children : Louise born July 19, 1914, Gerald born February 19, 1917, Ethel born August 10, 1918, Richard born February 4, 1920, Robert born December 26, 1936, and Earl born January 26, 1930.

It was about the year 190 that I first got acquainted with the Harter family. They lived in Newark Township for awhile, then moved a few miles south west of Ithaca, Michigan, then back to Newark. I remember the first time I went with Carrie she told me she liked me a little bit. But I think there has been a good many times since, that she didn't even think that much of me. But I am like Cornelius D^e Line. His wife's name was Mary, but he called her Mel. He said he liked to have a felling out with Mel once in a while, it was so much fun (Dam fun) Making up. Carrie was making her home with her grandparents. Lee was there also, doing some farming. Lee sold what he had, got married about the first of the year 1892 and went to Benton Harbor. Then George Harter came with his two children to make his home with his parents. Grandmother Harter, received a pension of \$12.00 a month from the death of her son Joshua. After awhile they moved on a new in North Star Township. George Harter bought a team and a few tools, cleared up most of the 40 acres, he also went with Charley Lyons threshing grain. While on this farm Adam Harter, George's father, died very suddenly. He was born February 15, 1819 and died April 7, 1898. Shortly after his death, Grandmother sold the place and they moved to Ola where they lived for a while, sold that and rented 40 acres a few miles south-east of Eureka in Clinton County. It was there where Grandmother fell and broke her hip. She was taken to her daughter's home in Ashley where she stayed for awhile. Then was taken to her son's home in North Star Township, Samuel Harter's home, where she died. Elizabeth Kinney Harter was born September 13, 1818 and died February 7, 1913. The writer of this record lived on a farm most of his life, have been married

and on the war-path with Carrie for 47n years, but both still retain our scalps. The family tree of the Harter family has been planted, hope it survives and grows and someone of the younger generation will write up and add to what has already been written.

Some more records of Samuel H. Harter's;

Samuel Hamilton Harter was born December 9, 1840 and died April 4, 1930, married Susan Gantz at George H. Gantz on the 7th day of October, 1866 by Thomas Long, Justice of the Peace. Mother Susan Gantz Harter passed away August 13, 1919. Children of Susan Gantz Harter and marriages:

Emma Jane and Alvah Howes November 13, 1886

Mary Elizabeth and Lewis A. Howes November 13, 1887

Bertha Ellen and Sheridan Wetherall March 29, 1893

Julia Etta and Fred Amsbury February 16, 1895

Ida Josephine and Charles Charter February 16, 1896

Anna May and Fred Rockefeller March 29, 1896

Vernice Orletta and William Andrews May 20, 1903

Arthur Henry and Vera Perry November 1, 1906

Millie Cora and Glenn Davis January 14, 1911

Alvin Meritt and Lillian Wolfe August 19, 1913

Births:

Adam H. Harter December 18, 1867

Emma J. October 18, 1869

Mary E. September 1, 1871

Bertha E. November 28, 1873

Julia E. March 18, 1876

Ida J. January 25, 1878

Anna M. January 3, 1880

Vernice O. February 4, 1885

Arthur H. January 20, 1887

Millie C. January 20, 1889 (born Jan 20)

Alvin M. January 22, 1891

Deaths:

Adam H.	April 15, 1869
Bertha E.	December 25, 1906
Julia	March 7, 1916
Mary E.	September 15, 1922
Emma J.	April 22, 1920
Arthur M.	October 12, 1930
Millie C.	February 25, 1939
Ida J.	
Alvin M.	10-18-1962







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